

**News Release**  
**Everett Public Schools**



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**Finance department again earns top honors for performance**  
***Financial management practices save taxpayers money***

This year marks the 23rd consecutive year that Everett Public Schools' finance department has earned the *Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting* from the Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO). It is the fourth year the department has applied for and also earned the *Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting* (CAFR) from the Government Finance Officers' Association (GFOA).

Only seven of the state's 301 school districts earned the ASBO award this year, and the GFOA honor was given to only four school districts and 70 municipalities in Washington this year. The district's accuracy and the extent of its fiscal reporting and public accountability are acknowledged by both awards. In particular, the CAFR report far exceeds the minimum reporting standards required of school districts in Washington.

"This district has a high bond rating, and that means taxpayers pay lower interest rates on school bonds. The bond rate is determined by sound financial reporting methods which result in these awards. The awards themselves are also taken into consideration by the bond rating entities," said Jeff Moore, director of finance and operations. "The district's financial management staff is very experienced, professional and dedicated as demonstrated by this history of recognition."

Superintendent Gary Cohn noted that "... the district just received another clean audit – the eighth one in as many years. Earning recognitions for financial excellence and receiving a clean audit each year from the state auditor are clear demonstrations of the fiscal care this district takes with public funds. During these challenging economic times, such awards help maintain our public's confidence in the work we do."

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